

REMARKS

The Ness et al. reference relates to a molding material that includes a reinforcement resin structure and a fibrous reinforcement material, and further includes a ventilating structure in the form of a partially impregnated reinforcement layer. There is no disclosure in the prior art citation of an in-mould surface coating wherein during process of the surface material, the minimum viscosity of the surface resin material is higher than the minimum viscosity of the reinforcement resin material. The Examiner considers that these properties are inherent to the material disclosed in the prior art citation. However, the Ness et al. reference does not disclose the use of a surface resin. Thus, the material disclosed in the Ness et al. reference does not meet the requirements of a surface material.

Further, it is this difference in properties of the respective resin materials that allows the laminate material of the claimed invention to achieve the high surface quality. There is no appreciation in the Ness et al. reference of this advantage.

The material of the claimed invention can be used for preparing out the autoclave carbon laminates which are suitable for painting. The surface material provides a goods surface for reinforcement materials that can be painted.

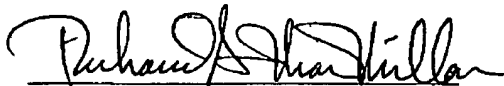
The problems associated with molding materials, such as the material disclosed in the Ness et al. reference, which the present invention overcomes, are as follows:

- (1) out of autoclave processes give surface defects that require subsequent filling and repair on demolding;
- (2) both out-of-autoclave and autoclave processed laminates require layers of filler to prevent printing of the carbon fiber when the molding materials become heated, e.g., as a result of being left in sunlight; and
- (3) the problem of print results from differences in the thermal expansion of the carbon fiber and resin and also from the effects of resin shrinkage.

The difference in viscosity is important as it allows for a buffer layer to be maintained between subsequent fibers in the molding material. If the resin of the surface material has a low viscosity the resin would flow into the mould material and the molding material fibers would therefore move closer to the mould surface which

would result in a print effect on the final component. Accordingly, the claimed invention is clearly patentable over the Ness et al. reference and the other art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. MacMillan", written over a horizontal line.

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